



THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
OF MOSCOW
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

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WELCOME TO SIXTH FORM AT ISM



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Students,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the academic year at The International School of Moscow. We extend a very warm welcome to all new and returning students and parents.

Our aspiration is to achieve a World-Class Education for all students in our growing community that incorporates our four campuses at Krylatskoe and Rosinka.

We are fortunate to be part of the Nord Anglia Education group, a growing network of 78 schools established across the globe. We are looking forward to providing all our students with an exceptional educational experience.

Following on from our extremely successful recent ISI inspections, we will continue to build on our reputation of excellence as we seek to meet the needs of all students enrolled in our school. Our staff members are enthusiastic and passionate about teaching and bring a wealth of experience and expertise.

At The International School of Moscow, we have created a stimulating, safe and positive learning environment, with high expectations of achievement, endeavour and behaviour. We are committed to making the curriculum accessible to all students by utilising a range of teaching styles and state-of-the-art technology, which will motivate our students to develop independent, life-long learning skills.

As ISM's Principal, my role is to establish a culture that promotes excellence, equality and high expectations amongst our students. We value the opinions of our parents, therefore please feel free to send an email, call or arrange a visit. Parent input is invaluable, and I look forward to working with you in the most important job you have: educating your child.

We hope you will find this handbook useful and look forward to working closely with you to ensure the continued success of all students in our school.

Very Best Wishes,

Paul Keach
Principal

WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS

Dear Parents and Students,

We understand that the decision about where to entrust the care of your child is one of utmost importance and we thank you for choosing the International School of Moscow's Secondary School (ISM) to bear out this important role. We pride ourselves on the fact that our students are happy and enjoy the experience of learning and growing with us.



There are many things that we, as an international community, want from our school: we want our students to be successful academically; we want them to develop excellent moral attitudes and a sense of mutual respect, of course we want them to fulfil their potential in as many different ways as possible.

We have an established tradition of excellent examination results and we expect this to continue long into the future. There is no doubt that one of the main factors behind this continued exceptional achievement is the emphasis we put on very high standards of behaviour and attitudes to learning.

We follow the English National Curriculum and everything we do is enriched by a range of stimulating subjects and events throughout the year. ISM students complete IGCSE and A-Level courses and are prepared for entry into the top universities worldwide. Our After Schools Activities (ASAs) programme is broad and exciting. Students will be given the opportunity to develop their talents in a range of disciplines, from the Arts to Sport, from Debating to Film Making. Students from our school compete on the international stage in competitions with other schools and this experience, and success, enriches their lives and, undoubtedly, the lives of all those with whom they come into contact.

The expertise and dedication of our staff play an extremely important part in providing the very best education for your child. Our teachers and support staff are conscientious and thoroughly committed to every child that walks through our doors. I am proud to be associated with them. Staff in our school demonstrate consummate professionalism and a determination to provide the highest standards in education. You can be reassured that the staff here genuinely care about your child's academic progress. In addition, they never fail to go the "extra mile" to ensure that your sons and daughters are fully prepared for the rigours of the modern world.

I encourage everyone in the Secondary School at ISM to not only take full advantage of everything that it has to offer but to also be influential in shaping its continuing journey of success. With this I wish you all a happy and fruitful academic year.

Yours Sincerely,

Ian Storey
Head of Krylatskoe Upper Campus and
Secondary School

WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Dear Parents and Students,

At ISM, we are fully aware of the importance of Sixth Form in your lives. You get your first 'taste of freedom' in education, with study sessions, a narrower focus in terms of subjects and of course, you make the difficult decision as to what university you wish to study in for third level education. Whilst Sixth Form is an exciting period, it also brings challenges. A-Levels are a big step up from what you have studied up until this point. However, I believe that A-Levels provide the perfect base for university life as they combine the demands of high academic expectations with the necessity of independent study.

We are conscious that this can be daunting in the early stages, but with our fantastic teachers we will help you foster the core skills needed to both succeed here and elsewhere. We offer a broad range of subjects at ISM, but we offer so much more than that. Some schools focus on getting you to your desired institution. We have a proven track record of sending students to world class universities, but I am most proud of how our PSHE programme ensures that you are equipped with the social and life skills to stay there and successfully graduate. We put a lot of time into finding the right university for you, ensuring that your undergraduate experience is not only challenging, but rewarding.

The world is changing at an ever-quickening pace. Good grades and a degree are no longer the guarantee of success that they may have been even a generation ago. With this in mind, we provide a wide range of leadership and extracurricular activities. It is with immense pride that I say that we not only produce great students, but outstanding global citizens. Our Sixth Formers are the 'gold standard' in terms of behavior and etiquette in our school, serving as role models for the younger students.

This guide will outline the structure of A-Levels and give you an insight into life in Sixth Form, as well as providing information about the different subjects on offer to help you make your choices. However, if you have any specific questions, I am more than happy to answer them.

I look forward to welcoming you all to Sixth Form very soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Sam Davis
Assistant Head in Charge of Sixth Form



WHY CHOOSE THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MOSCOW?

The International School of Moscow is an outstanding school, the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) graded the school as excellent in all areas. Every single one of our students leaves us to start the next stage of their education at universities around the world.

We have received offers from some of the world's top universities including Cambridge, Imperial College, University College London, Kings College London, Manchester University, Oxford University, Toronto University, New York University, Amsterdam University and Delft. Our students study a range of courses from medicine to art and design and from computing to mechanical engineering.

At ISM we believe that we are not just helping students pass examinations, but ensuring they are successfully prepared for life at university and beyond.

Our careers and university guidance team have a wealth of experience regarding university applications around the world.

As a British school most of our students look to study in the UK, but every year we successfully help students apply worldwide. Over the past seven years our students have also applied to courses in the USA, Canada, Australia, The Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Singapore, France and the Czech Republic.

As part of our University Preparation Course, we look at skills needed for further studies and in the workplace; documentation like CVs and letters of application are produced alongside interview preparation.

We are proud to have students of so many different nationalities at ISM, to help ensure all students feel part of our community we use English as our shared language. We expect students to use English in all their interactions with other students and staff.

In our recent exams in 2021, 79% of ISM's A-Level results were either A*, A or B, a figure well above the United Kingdom national average.



Our recent graduate destinations include:

University	Course
King's College London	English
Bristol University	Mechanical Engineering
University of Toronto	Management
University of Exeter	History and International Relations
University of Amsterdam	Business Administration
Kyung Hee University	Genetic Engineering
Moscow Higher School of Economics	Economics
University of Kent	Architecture
University of Nottingham	Politics and Economics
Bocconi University	Economics and Management
Cambridge University	Chemical Engineering
University of St Andrews	Biology
Goldsmiths, University of London	Fine Art
Oxford University	English Language and Literature
Eindhoven University of Technology	Civil engineering
University of Manchester	Politics and International Relations
University of Reading	Agriculture
University of Edinburgh	Chemical Engineering
University of Nottingham	Politics and Economics
University of Manchester	Biochemistry
Keele University	Medicine
Keio University, Japan	Computer Science
Macquarie University, Australia	Commerce
Chung-Ang University, Korea	Theatre Production & Design
University of York	Politics and Philosophy
University College London	Politics, Philosophy and Economics

And many, many more!

STUDYING IN SIXTH FORM

ENTRY INTO SIXTH FORM

A-Levels are demanding and it is important that we ensure students are going to succeed on the courses they start, for this reason **we have entry requirements for all A-Level courses.**

Students already studying IGCSEs or GCSEs must have at least 5 GCSEs or IGCSEs at Grade C/5 or above. This is one of the basic entry requirements for university entrance. To follow an A-Level course there is the additional requirement of at least a B/6 grade in the subject students wish to study.

Students applying to join the Sixth Form from other educational systems will be asked to provide school reports and grades as well as sit entrance tests in English and the subjects they are interested in studying. Assessment of school reports and entrance tests will be used alongside feedback from an interview to assess a student's suitability for A-Level studies.

Sixth Form students are expected to be role models for all other students in the school and for this reason we also consider behavioural records.

CURRICULUM

A-LEVELS EXPLAINED

Years 12 and 13 are known as Sixth Form in the English system, there are two qualifications that can be completed during Sixth Form.

Advanced Subsidiary qualifications (known as AS): These are one-year courses, normally completed in Year 12 and are the equivalent to either 50% or 40% of an A-Level.

Advanced Levels or A-Levels: These are two-year courses, the first year of which covers the same content as the AS.

Students typically study four subjects at AS level in Year 12 and then choose three subjects to continue to full A-Level in Year 13. All external qualifying examinations are sat in May and June. Universities in the UK, and around the world, normally require three full A-Levels, with some more competitive courses asking for three A-Levels and one AS.

Please note that some courses are linear and do not offer the option of sitting AS examinations at the end of Year 12. In such cases, all papers are taken at the end of Year 13. Routes for specific subjects are discussed with students and parents during the option selection process.

There are two ways to complete A-Levels, the specific route is chosen by the subject teachers and not the students:

PATHWAY 1: This is the most common route. Students study for the AS exams in Year 12, sitting the exams in May/June and gaining the qualifications. In Year 13 students cover the remaining content and sit their A-Level examinations.

PATHWAY 2: This route might be chosen by a few of the more practical subjects like Music and Art. Students only study for the A-Level, they will be assessed internally in Year 12 but will not sit the AS exams. They will be examined officially at the end of Year 13.

The A-Level system sees students gaining qualifications only for their academic studies. Students may also choose to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), this is an independent qualification requiring students to choose a critical question that is not part of their academic studies, researching and presenting it in the form of a 5,000-word essay or a project with a 1,000-word essay accompanying it.

WHY CHOOSE A-LEVELS?

A-Levels allow students to specialise earlier than the IB or American system. This is especially useful to students who have a clear plan for their futures. Students looking to study the sciences or engineering at university can focus by taking Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, linguists can take a range of languages, and students looking to study a social science can try out Sociology. Of course, there are students who at 16 years old have no idea what they want to study in the future and they can still take a range of subjects keeping all their options open, for example Maths, History, French and Chemistry.

A-Level subjects are all examined discreetly, and each subject receives its own grade, which students use to apply to university. This is different to other systems where students gain individual subject grades, but they count towards an overall score. This can mean that the overall score of a student who is not particularly strong in one area, for instance Maths and Science, can be affected. This is not the case with A-Levels.

UNIVERSITY PREPARATION COURSE

As part of the curriculum we have a specially tailored University Preparation Course. The course starts by focusing on the independent study skills needed for A-Level and university courses, this includes looking at the reliability of sources, referencing, note taking and time management. By Easter in Year 12 students will be starting to put together the paperwork they need for their university applications, these will be finished and sent in Term 1 of Year 13.

Alongside this we run sessions on Mental health in school and at university:

- **Living on their own** – cooking, hygiene living with other people
- **Managing and budgeting money**
- **Staying safe** – personal safety, substance awareness

SUPPLEMENTARY STUDIES

Throughout the year we offer several supplementary courses and activities, some of these are timetabled and receive an hour a week. Some of the supplementary courses are compulsory and some are optional. The courses and activities offered have included:

- First Aid courses (certified)
- Duke of Edinburgh International Award (also involves some weekends for training and expeditions)
- Leadership courses (certified)
- Online university level courses
- ICT qualifications (certified)
- Mini projects
- Mentoring programme
- Portfolio building (for students requiring a portfolio for university applications)
- Medical Club
- Maths for Academics (for students not studying A-Level Maths but taking subjects that involve maths e.g. Geography, Psychology and Economics)
- Sports sessions (on and off-site)

EXAMINATIONS

Throughout the course of Year 12 and Year 13, students will be working towards either AS or A-Levels (Advanced General Certificate of Education) - official examinations that prove a student has successfully completed this stage of compulsory secondary education and allow direct access to university. Examinations taken after one year are known as Levels, examinations taken after two years as A-Levels.

A-Level examinations are managed by various government-approved organisations in the UK. ISM currently uses three of the biggest examination boards; Cambridge International Examinations and Pearson-Edexcel.

The exams are marked on a 5- or 6-point scale as shown in the table below:

AS Level	A-Level	Description
A*	Pass	
A		A
B		B
C		C
D		D
E		E
U	U	Fail

AS examinations sat through CIE are weighted as 50% of the final A-Level, whereas AS examinations with Pearson-Edexcel do not count towards the final A-Level grade. These A-Levels are entirely dependent on the examinations sat at the end of Y13. AS grades are important as they are used to help teachers make predicted grades for university applications and universities like to see AS grades as an indicator of the student's ability.

Students sit mock examinations in January of both Year 12 and Year 13. It is important that students sit these examinations and that extended holidays are not organised by families to ensure this. These examinations are an important part of the Sixth Form programme, they are used by staff and students to assess progress through the course.

The May/June examination timetable is produced by the exam boards themselves and not the school. These exams cannot be rearranged or taken at a later date, so it is essential that students are in school for their examinations.

TECHNOLOGY

All students at ISM are issued with a **MacBook** to complete their school work. In Sixth Form students use these a lot, not only for classwork, but also their independent study and research. Students are expected to arrive in school every day with a **fully charged** MacBook. The ICT department are on hand to help students with any issues they might experience with their MacBooks.

Students and parents are required to sign an ICT agreement that outlines the school's expectations of appropriate use.

SCHOOL DAY

08:25am

Students are expected to be in school by 8.25am.

The day begins with registration and tutor time, this is an important start to the day, giving students the space and environment to mentally and physically prepare for the day of learning ahead of them.

The day consists of **six lessons**, at ISM we run a **two-week timetable** and all AS and A-Level subjects will have 10 lessons over those two weeks. All students will have some independent study lessons where they will work in the Sixth Form Study Centre. During this time students should be organising themselves to do the additional work required for success at A-Level. They might use the time to read related articles or text, write additional essays, complete past examination papers or to ensure they have completed all their homework.

An example timetable for a student looking to study Economics at university:

MON	Maths	Geography	Indep. study	Economics	Physics	Indep. study
TUE	Indep. study	Maths	Physics	Uni prep.	Economics	Geography
WED	Geography	Economics	Indep. study	Maths	Sup. Studies	Sports
THU	Economics	Indep. study	Geography	Maths	Physics	Indep. study
FRI	Physics	Geography	Maths	Economics	Physics	Assembly

WORK EXPERIENCE & CAREERS

The process of preparing for life after ISM begins at the start of Year 12. Students are encouraged to seek opportunities to demonstrate their skills, abilities and personal strengths through engagement in activities outside the classroom. In an ever increasingly competitive field universities are looking for students with extra and additional qualities beyond that of their A-Level results. It is very important that all Sixth Form students take part in voluntary community work, work placements, enrichment activities and school events. All of these can be added to their personal statements for application through UCAS and other organisations.

It is with this in mind, that we provide the opportunities contained in the Supplementary Studies programme. In addition, students are offered leadership positions within our student body, such as **Head Boy** and **Head Girl**, **House Captain**, **School Council** and **Charities Committee**.

All Year 12 students undertake a week's work placement, students are encouraged to organise their own placements in an organisation that aligns with their future plans and would benefit their university applications as well as giving students a great opportunity to understand more fully what it is they want to do after school. Where students are unable to secure a placement we do have contacts with a number of organisations in Moscow that have offered placements in the past. The work placement programme relies on parents and local businesses, we are always happy to hear from parents who would be willing to host a student for the week.

Throughout the year we are fortunate enough to have a series of regular **guest speakers** from universities around the globe, helping students understand what options they have after school. We also host guest speakers from our local community who speak to the students about topical issues of the day and engage the students in discussion about their chosen topics.

During Years 12 and 13, students will be making decisions that will affect the rest of their lives and at ISM we are here to help them every step of the way.

The University Preparation Course helps students with the more general aspects of university applications and careers guidance. Our Sixth Form team offer students more personalised help and advice through one-on-one meetings and individual document checking.

CHOOSING YOUR A-LEVEL SUBJECTS



A-LEVEL SUBJECTS

At ISM all Year 12 students will study four AS courses, this may be reduced to three subjects in Year 13. It is important you think about your future plans, subjects you are good at and the fact you will be studying the subject for two more years.

Subjects are presented in an option block grid and students will choose one subject from each block; this is due to timetabling.

To help you make your choices you will find an outline of all our A-Level subjects and some advice on the most commonly asked for university requirements.

We offer three essay subjects; History, English Literature and Sociology, all or any one of which are helpful with applications to subjects where essay writing will make up the bulk of assessments.

Maths is a very popular A-Level choice as it supports a wide range of university courses and careers, especially the sciences, business and economic based courses. The full A-Level may not be required for all courses and to allow more students to continue with Maths to a higher level we offer an alternative route. Students take only the AS course, but spend the full two years studying it, this class will work through the same content as the regular AS Maths class, just at a slower pace.

UNIVERSITY ENTRY GUIDANCE

Certain university degree courses require or prefer particular A-Level subjects. These requirements may change as universities adjust their expectations, and only the university's website should be considered authoritative. At present the following guidelines should be borne in mind:

Natural Science	Mathematics plus at least two of the three sciences advised
Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science	Chemistry, Biology and Maths are most commonly asked for as well as GCSE Physics (A-Level Physics is increasingly also being asked for)
Pharmacy	Chemistry and Biology are strongly advised
Engineering	Mathematics and Physics required; Further Mathematics is very useful
Computing	Mathematics is required
Psychology	Usually two sciences are advised, but entry via arts subjects is possible
Economics	Mathematics
Business Studies, Management	Mathematics is helpful but not essential
Architecture	Either Mathematics or Physics is useful, and an art portfolio is essential
Foreign languages	Two languages are desirable but not essential
Law	Any A-Levels at the highest grade, English and History are an advantage

SUBJECTS

ART AND DESIGN

Why study A-Level Art and Design?

Students will continue to develop skills learnt during KS4 but in addition they explore materials and processes in more depth. The emphasis is on developing as an independent learner and exploring materials and processes that they are interested in. The course stimulates interest, enjoyment and personal enrichment as well as introducing artistic exploration and an appreciation of art history.

How is the course structured?

A-Level Art and Design requires an understanding of form and composition and a willingness to try new techniques. Students will work independently to prepare coursework with encouragement and individual feedback from the teacher. Exploration of techniques and artists is encouraged throughout Year 1 and Year 2. Successful Art students gain lifelong skills, including:

- communication skills, especially the ability to communicate concepts and feelings;
- the ability and confidence to experiment, be innovative, intuitive and imaginative;
- research and evaluation skills an appreciation of practical problems and how to solve these

This course runs as the full A-Level only and is externally assessed at the end of Year 13. Students are internally assessed at the end of Year 12. Assessments consists of a final 15-hour practical examination and the submission of a project sketchbook.

Taking A-Level Art and Design further

Progression at university could include Fine Art, Fashion Design, Photography, Communication, Graphic Design, Architecture, Art History or Print. Some students will complete a Foundation Course in Art and Design before beginning a specialised degree. With further training or study, students go into careers including: advertising, marketing, graphic design, interior design, product design, photography, crafts, illustration, architecture, animation, fine art, film and theatre.



BIOLOGY

Why study A-Level Biology?

The Biology A-Level syllabus covers aspects including contemporary issues, with compulsory study of all units. It is often combined with other Sciences or Mathematics, but can also be combined with Arts or Humanities to provide breadth of study. Year 1 covers general topics with links to the life sciences whereas Year 2 is more demanding and addresses complex ideas in Biology, as well as recent ideas and developments.

How is the course structured?

Biology requires a combination of learning, analytical and practical skills. These needs are addressed by varied student centred learning, involving individual and group practicals, discussions, projects, demonstrations, workshops, exam practice and traditional teaching. Both theoretical and practical Biology are assessed through written examinations. Topics include:

- Cells and Biological techniques
- Mammalian and Plant transport systems
- Disease and Immunity
- Microscopy, fieldwork techniques and the use of statistics in Biology
- Selection and Evolution
- Biodiversity and Conservation
- Biotechnology
- Genetics
- Respiration
- Photosynthesis and Homeostasis

Taking A-Level Biology further

Biology prepares students for higher education courses in all fields of medicine and health (including Dentistry, Pharmacology and Physiotherapy). It is also suitable for those intending to study Sport and Sport Science, Environmental and Land Management, Biotechnology and Microbiology.

CHEMISTRY

Why study A-Level Chemistry?

The Chemistry A-Level syllabus covers aspects of Chemistry including contemporary issues, to a high standard, with compulsory study of all units. It is often combined with other Sciences or Mathematics, but can also be combined with Arts or Humanities to provide breadth of study.



How is the course structured?

Chemistry requires a combination of learning, analytical and practical skills. These needs are addressed by varied student centred learning, involving individual and group practicals, discussions, projects, demonstrations, workshops, exam practice and traditional teaching. Both theoretical and practical Chemistry are assessed through written examinations. Module topics include:

- Atomic Structure and Bonding
- Reaction Kinetics and Energetics
- Reversible Reactions and Dynamic Equilibrium
- Periodic Trends in the Periodic Table
- Calculating Amount of Substance
- The Organic Chemistry of Alkanes, Alkenes, Alcohols, Carbonyls and Aromatics
- Transition Metals and Complex Ions

Taking A-Level Chemistry further

Chemistry prepares students for degree courses and further training and employment in a variety of areas including, Pharmacy, Medicine, Chemical Engineering, Agrochemicals and Environmental Studies. It is a useful preparation for a Science degree and would be useful for students intending to enter industrial and management training programmes (e.g. medical or environmental laboratory work).

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Why study A-Level Computer Science?

On the Computer Science A-Level course students develop a general understanding and perspective about the use of computer technology and systems, which inform our decisions and support participation in an increasingly technologically dependent society. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of computing through entry to higher education, where this qualification will provide a useful foundation for further study of computing or more specialist aspects of computing.

How is the course structured?

Students are provided with the necessary skills and knowledge to seek employment in areas that utilise computing. They will develop programming skills and learn how to manage a computing project. The course studies the language of Visual Basic and Python. Topics covered include computing hardware and software, practical programming language, further computer theory and computing project based on a real end user.

Taking A-Level Computing further

There is a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in computing, in particular finance, business and education sectors. Careers which specialise in ICT include programmer, developer, administrator (Systems, Network, Database), managers (Information, IT, Project, Security), analyst (Software Implementation, Computer System), Engineer (Computer, Software, Software Support, technicians, consultant, designer (Web, Graphic).

Due to the mathematical nature of computing students intending to take A-Level Computer Science will be required to have GCSE Maths with at least a B/6 grade.

DRAMA AND THEATRE



What will I learn?

During the course students will follow straightforward structure with three components, one that focuses on devising, one that focuses on performing or designing skills and one that focuses on practical exploration of texts to interpret them for performance. By choosing this course students will have the opportunity of a qualification that will engage them through encouraging creativity, focusing on practical work which reflects 21st-century theatre practice and developing skills that will support progression to further study of drama and a wide range of other subjects.

How is the course structured?

A-Level Drama and Theatre is comprised of three components which consist of:

- Component 1- Devising
- Component 2- Texts in Practice
- Component 3- Theatre Makers in Practice

This subject is only offered as a full A-Level, taken over two years. During the first year of study students complete component 1 and devise their own piece of theatre from an extract from a chosen script and a practitioner of choice. This will coincide with a 2500-3000 word portfolio explaining their process. Year 2 requires students to complete component 2 of the course by performing a scripted piece and a monologue of their choice. Concluding the A-Level is a two-and-a-half-hour examination from the study of two set texts and a theatre review (Component 3).

Taking Drama and Theatre further

In progressing to University BA courses could include: Drama, Acting, Creative Writing, Theatre Management, Dramatherapy, Theatre Design, Stage Management, Script Writing and Film Studies. Upon completion of a three year course students can go into careers such as: actors, community arts worker, drama therapist, theatre director, set designer, stage manager, teacher of the arts, television broadcaster, arts administrator and film director.



ECONOMICS

Why study A-Level Economics?

A-Level Economics provides an overview of microeconomic and macroeconomic issues and an understanding of the economic choices that individuals, firms, and governments face. It also introduces the concept of scarcity and the working process of a market economic system. Topics include commodity prices, health care, monopolies, inflation, unemployment, economic growth, international trade, fiscal and monetary policy. Words, numbers and diagrams are used to explore most topics and there is a strong emphasis on linguistic accuracy.

How is the course structured?

Two themes are studied in the first year: 'Introduction to markets and market failure' and 'The UK economy - performance and policies'. In the second year an additional two themes are studied: 'Business behaviour and the labour market' and 'A global perspective'. The course presupposes an interest in current affairs and students are expected to access quality media on a regular basis to keep themselves informed. There is no coursework; Economics is 100% examined through a combination of multiple choice questions, data response questions and structured essays.

Taking A-Level Economics further

A-Level Economics is highly regarded by universities and combines well with Geography, Mathematics and Business. It can help to prepare students for careers in finance, banking, insurance, government, commercial law and journalism. While it is not always necessary to have studied Economics A-Level in order to study it at university, it is definitely an advantage. Note that most Economics degree courses in the UK require students to have studied Mathematics at A-Level.

Due to the mathematical and language intensive nature of this course students intending to take A-Level Economics will be required to have GCSE Maths & English Language with at least a B/6 grade.



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Why study A-Level English Literature?

English Literature at A-Level represents a significant step up from GCSE both in terms of the number and range of texts to be studied, and the degree of sophistication demanded in terms of student response. The course involves the practice of and reflection upon a variety of approaches to reading literature and unseen multi-modal texts in English. Students will learn how to analyse from a linguistic and literary perspective, a range of texts including novels, poetry, drama, emails, weblogs, travel writing and letters from a range of historical periods and a range of contexts. The course seeks to develop an open-minded, engaged and sensitive response to the worlds of experience and imagination, as well as instilling an intellectual rigour which is extremely highly valued by the most competitive universities.

How is the course structured?

Themes and ideas will be explored in an extended set text and language and form analysed with particular focus upon the construction of voice in writing. Moving into Year 2, students will examine the social, political and historical contexts underlying two set texts, together with an evaluation of their critical reception, and, in doing so, develop and refine their personal response to what they read. As well as formal analysis, there is a creative coursework unit for both Year 1 and 2 where a focus upon a literary genre leads into an imaginatively re-working and re-shaping of the genre by the student to explore, for instance, different perspectives within the text. Much of the work in the Sixth Form follows the pattern of reading which students are expected to prepare independently in their own time; this reading will form the basis for lively discussion and debate in class, often leading to the writing of an essay in which students are required to draw together their ideas.

Taking A-Level English Literature further

An A-Level in English Literature can be useful in any future career involving communication or writing, such as journalism, marketing or advertising. The reading element of the course will give students the analytical grounding for careers such as law, teaching, politics or publishing. English Literature A-Level will prepare students for any degree that involves writing essay, that is nearly all degrees.

FRENCH

Why study A-Level French?

The A-Level course is designed to encourage students to develop an interest in, and an enthusiasm for language learning. They will learn to become effective and confident communicators, clearly using French for a range of purposes.

Over the two year course they will develop an advanced level knowledge and understanding of the French language, contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of Francophone countries and communities. The valuable language and study skills acquired throughout the course will help to prepare students for higher education and enhance their employability profile.



How is the course structured?

In Year 1 students will study topics based on the changes in society and culture in French speaking countries. Students will be expected to not only demonstrate what they have learnt but also defend and justify their opinions and respond to a range of questions. In Year 2 students will study Resistance and Occupation during WW2 and the effects of immigration and multiculturalism in France. Students will also be required to study a literary text and film. In both years, the assessment is comprised of three papers which test the core skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing and translation.

Taking A-Level French further

Learners should recognise that their linguistic knowledge, understanding and skills help them to take their place in a multilingual global society and also provide them with a suitable basis for further study and practical use of French. Students will also find French A-Level useful if they progress to careers or course in internal relations, development and many areas of media.

GEOGRAPHY

Why Study A-Level Geography?

There has never been a better or more important time to study geography. There is an ever growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation, social cohesion, and the impact of natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and tropical storms. As a result, geography is one of the most relevant A-level courses students could choose.

How is the course structured?

In Year 12 students will study five geographical themes that focus on hydrology, atmosphere and weather, population, migration, and settlement dynamics. Students then sit two two-hour examinations that test knowledge of each of these themes. Each paper constitutes 50% of total marks at AS Level, and 25% of marks at A-Level.

In Year 13, students examine advanced Physical and Human Geography. Physical topics focus on coastal environments, and hazardous environments. Human topics focus on environmental management, and manufacturing and production. Students sit two examinations (one on the human, and one on the physical options). Each paper constitutes 25% of marks at A-Level.

Taking A-Level Geography further

Geography graduates are numerate, literate, good team workers, can think analytically, have cultural agility, are socially and environmentally aware, can problem solve, and are highly computer literate. For example, the skills and knowledge gained through a study of geography equips people to be town planners, environmental consultants, geologists, environmental engineers, journalists, GIS specialists, cartographers, meteorologists, climatologists, transport managers, researchers, teachers, demographers, foreign affairs personnel, park rangers, tourism operators, and teachers, just to name a few of the possible career options.

HISTORY

Why study A-Level History?

Students will not just learn History, but construct it, as real historians do, gaining a realisation that History is not what happened in the past, but our interpretation of what happened in the past, and as such is constantly changing.

The course allows students to develop the ability to scrutinise, analyse and deconstruct contemporary sources, forming and supporting their own opinion on events and characters from the past. Above all we will explore the past through the eyes of those people who actually lived it, to assess controversial issues and debates, to not just learn, but to investigate, and to put forward our own arguments supported by evidence. History at A-Level places far more responsibility on the shoulders of students, with class time being used for discussion and skills based activities rather than reading and noting. Students need to be prepared to take an active role in class.

How is the course structured?

AS History in Year 12 comprises of two examinations, one source based and one essay based. Our source based Paper 1 is focused on The Search for International Peace and Security and the years 1919–1945. This is worth 40% of the AS Level and 20% of the overall A-Level grade.

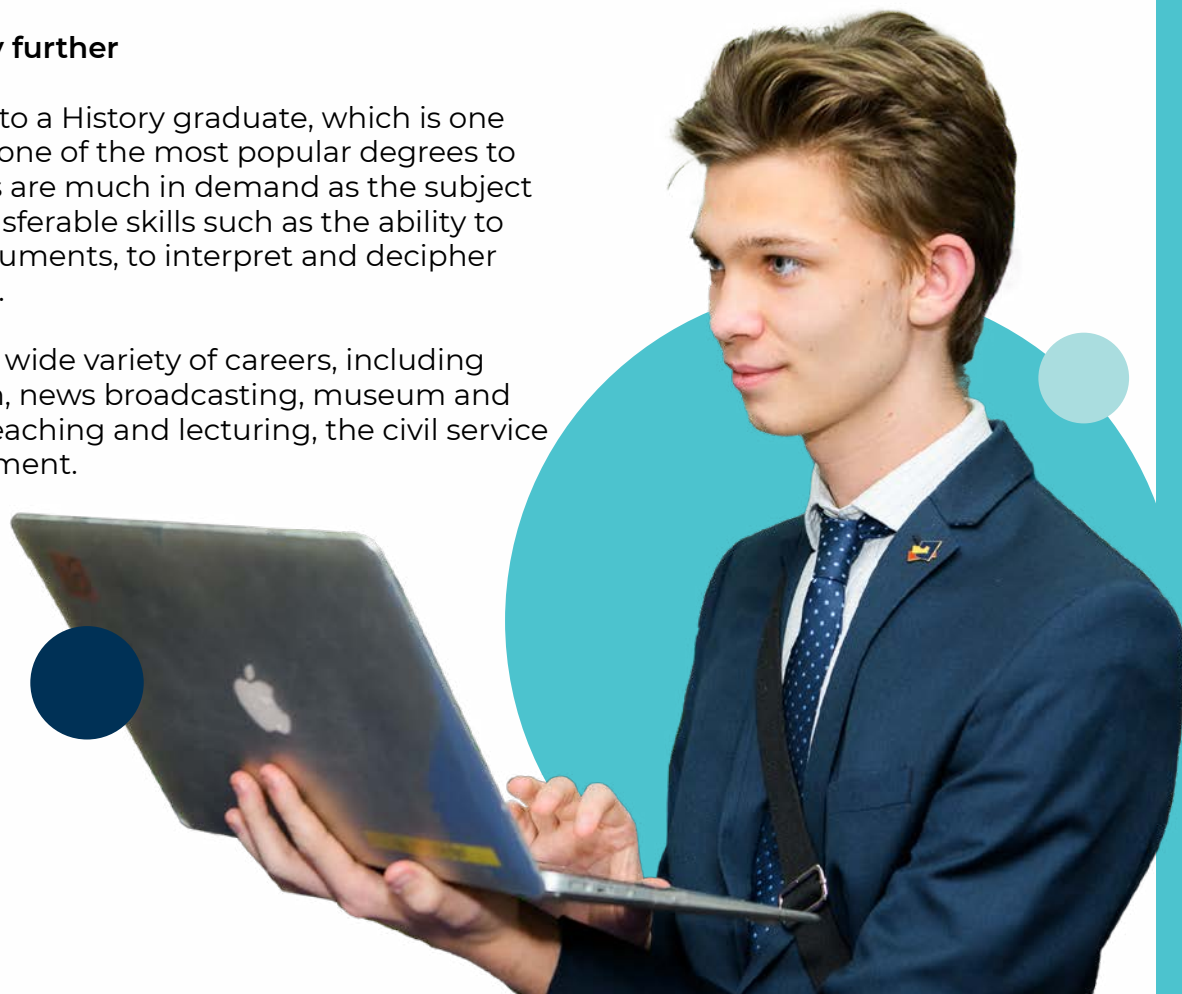
Our essay based Paper 2 studies Russia from 1894–1917 and The Origins of World War One from 1870–1914. This paper is worth 60% of the AS Level and 30% of the overall A-Level grade.

At A-Level, our students explore the Historiography of the Holocaust in Paper 3. This is an extract based paper, worth 20% of the overall A-Level, in which the students will explore the evolving attitudes to causation and reactions to the Holocaust, looking at historians from Dawidowicz to Kershaw. In Paper 4, our students will have to complete essay questions on the Great Twentieth Century Dictators, focusing on Stalin and Hitler's regimes and the concept of totalitarianism.

Taking A-Level History further

Most careers are open to a History graduate, which is one reason why it remains one of the most popular degrees to study. History students are much in demand as the subject develops essential transferable skills such as the ability to construct complex arguments, to interpret and decipher important information.

History is suitable for a wide variety of careers, including politics, law, journalism, news broadcasting, museum and archaeological work, teaching and lecturing, the civil service and business management.



MATHEMATICS AND FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Why study A-Level Mathematics?

Studying A-Level Mathematics is an excellent choice whatever future plans the students have. This is because mathematics combines well with almost all other subjects and is highly regarded for entry into higher education courses. The course of study is flexible and is split between Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics. The aims of the course are not only to extend the range of mathematical skills and techniques and use them in more difficult, unstructured problems, but also to develop the ability to reason logically and recognise incorrect reasoning and use mathematics as an effective means of communication.

How is the course structured?

The course combines four Pure Mathematics modules and two in Applied Mathematics. The topics studied include:

- Pure Mathematics - Algebra, Coordinate Geometry, Calculus, Trigonometry, Vectors and Numerical Methods.
- Applied Mathematics - Decision and Statistics I.

Taking A-Level Mathematics further

Apart from the opportunities presented in the highly regarded field of study of Mathematics, it is also important to a wide range of other careers across the globe. Many degree courses at university require numerical skills and Mathematics is often a prerequisite for entry to Science and Engineering courses. The types of careers which lead on from Mathematics include finance, computing, mathematical biology, engineering, teaching and lecturing, statistics and business.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Why study A-Level Further Mathematics?

This course is designed for students with a very strong background in mathematics who have attained a high degree of competence in a range of analytical and technical skills, and who display considerable interest in the subject. Most of these students will expect to study mathematics at university, either as a subject in its own right or as a major component of a related subject.

The course is designed specifically to allow students to learn about a variety of branches of mathematics in depth and also to appreciate practical applications. It is a requirement that students taking this course will be completing Mathematics A-Level in Year 12.

How is the course structured?

The course combines three Further Pure Mathematics modules and three in Applied Mathematics.

- Further Pure Mathematics 1, 2 & 3
- Applied Mathematics - Statistics 2 and Mechanics 1 & 2

Taking A-Level Further Mathematics further

Apart from the opportunities presented in the highly regarded field of study of Mathematics, it is also important to a wide range of other careers across the globe. Many Science and Engineering courses may require this additional level of mathematical ability.

MEDIA STUDIES

Why study A-Level Media?

AS and A-Level Media Studies offers learners the chance to develop an understanding and appreciation of the place of media in our everyday lives. The syllabus also enables learners to take a hands-on approach to the subject. Learners will:

- Deconstruct the visual and audio language of TV Drama, Film and Magazines
- Appreciate the way that modern media is convergent (crosses different platforms e.g. a film has a poster, website and sometimes even a video game associated with it)
- Construct media products

How is the course structured?

Component 1: Foundation Portfolio

Coursework in which candidates work individually, or as a group, to produce

- A media product
- A blog which digitally evidences the process of production
- A creative critical reflection.

Component 2 Textual Analysis and media industries exam

Written examination consisting of two questions. There are two sections to this paper;

- **Section A** – Textual Analysis and Representation. Candidates answer one question on an unseen extract from a TV drama. (50 marks)
- **Section B** – Institutions and Audiences. Candidates answer one question from a choice of two. The questions will be answered with reference to each candidate's own pre-prepared case study.

What can I do after Media Studies A-Level?

Progression at university could include Media, Photography, Film, Marketing, Graphic Design Fashion Design and Communication. With further training or study, students go into careers including: crafts advertising, marketing, graphic design, interior design, product design, photography, illustration, film, TV, radio, animation, fine art, film and theatre.

MUSIC

Why study A-Level Music

A-Level Music develops an appreciation of, and an informed critical response to music across 6 different areas of study learners discover how to listen attentively and responsively to develop a better understanding of the musical processes. Learners are encouraged to develop their own creative and interpretative skills through the disciplines of composing and performing.

How is the course structured?

This subject is only offered as a full A-Level assessed at the end of Year 13. Both Years 1 and 2 are assessed over a number of areas including composition, performance and listening to and analysis of music. Performance and Composition consists of assessed coursework (60%). The listening and appraising element is assessed through a 2 hour written exam taken at the end of the course.

The six areas of study are:

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz
- Fusions
- New Directions in Music

What can I do after Music A-Level?

This course complements other Arts and Humanities courses, such as History, Art, Literature and ICT to maintain breadth of study. Students who have gained this A-Level have gone on to study Music in universities around the world in preparation for careers in teaching, performing and composing. Other students have entered the world of advertising, film, television, publishing, record producing and an array of many other related professions.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why study A-Level Physical Education?

Students develop a knowledge and understanding of what makes up a healthy and active lifestyle and how sports have developed over time. They will enter the world of elite performance both in theory and through applied studies.

Topics that are studied include applied anatomy and physiology, Skill acquisition, Sport and society, Exercise physiology, Biomechanical movement, Sport Psychology and Technology in sport.

How is the course structured?

The course is split into two parts: AS Level Physical Education (year one) and A-Level Physical Education (year two). At the end of each year the candidate is assessed on theory content, practical performance and written or verbal piece of coursework.

The theory content is assessed by written exam and is worth 70% of the total grade. The final 30% consists of a coursework assessment as a performer or coach, and a written or verbal analysis of performance.

This coursework is repeated in the second year in more detail and in a different activity to year one.

Taking A-Level PE further

Students taking A-Level PE could enter higher education institutes to study Sports Science and or Physical Education. They can enter careers in Sports Medicine, Sports Therapy, Sports Management, Teaching Physical Education, Sports Psychology, Sports Coaching & Development, Leisure Management, Sports Technology, or the Armed Forces.

PHYSICS

Why study A-Level Physics?

The syllabus covers aspects of Physics including contemporary issues, to a high standard, with compulsory study of all units.

Year 1 covers a range of topics linked to the Physical Sciences, whereas Year 2 focuses on the more complex Physical concepts. It is often combined with other Sciences or Mathematics, but can also be combined with Arts or Humanities to provide breadth of study.

How is the course structured?

Physics requires a combination of learning, analytical and practical skills. These needs are addressed by varied student centred learning, involving individual and group practicals, discussions, projects, demonstrations, workshops, exam practice and traditional teaching. Topics include:

- Particle Physics and Radiation
- Waves and Optics
- Mechanics and Materials
- Electricity
- Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics
- Fields
- Nuclear Physics

Taking A-Level Physics further

Physics prepares students for degree courses and further training and employment in a variety of areas including engineering, information technology, electronics, control systems, robotics, space research, medical technology, construction and architecture. As part of a non-science curriculum it gives an understanding of how and why modern technology functions.

RUSSIAN

Why study A-Level Russian?

The A-Level course is designed to encourage students to develop an interest in, and an enthusiasm for language learning. They will learn to become effective and confident communicators, clearly using Russian for a range of purposes. Over the two year course they will develop an advanced level of knowledge and understanding of the Russian language, contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of Russian speaking countries and communities. The valuable language and study skills acquired throughout the course will help to prepare students for higher education and enhance their employability profile.

How is the course structured?

In Year 1 students will study topics based on the changes in society and culture in Russian speaking countries.

Students will be expected to not only demonstrate what they have learnt but also defend and justify their opinions and respond to a range of questions.

In Year 2 students will study several areas of Russian history and contemporary issues. Students will also be required to study a literary text and film. In both years, the assessment is comprised of three papers which test the core skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing and translation.

Taking A-Level Russian further

Learners should recognise that their linguistic knowledge, understanding and skills help them to take their place in a multilingual global society and also provide them with a suitable basis for further study and practical use of Russian. Students will also find Russian A-Level useful if they progress to careers or course in internal relations, development and many areas of media.



SOCIOLOGY

What will I learn?

Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions. Within sociology, we study a diverse range of topics from crime to family, from the media to the state, and from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture. The study of these diverse subjects of study is sociology's purpose to understand the meaning behind our actions and what drives them.

The A-Level course is driven by independent learning as we begin to prepare students for their lives after Sixth Form. Students will participate in several activities in class including: seminars, lectures, debates, student led presentations and project work. Students will be required to participate in all classroom-based activities in order to get the most out of the course. This participation is mandatory and will help prepare the students for their examinations.

How is the course structured?

There are two compulsory units to be studied during the first year of the Sociology A-Level. The first unit, Theory and Methods, will investigate what is Sociology and how it is studied. We will research how society is constructed and the impact it has on our own lives and those around the world. The second unit, The Family, focuses on how different factors within society can affect the family unit and how family types differ around the world.

This will be assessed over two 1 hour and 30 minute examinations.

The second year of the course will cover a variety of topics. The first unit, Education, will be assessed over a 1hr 15 minute exam which will be essay based. The second paper in Year 13 will be a selection of two topics out of media, religion and global development.

Taking A-Level Sociology further?

Studying Sociology will set you up for Sociology or Psychology at degree. The vast majority of people that study Sociology will go into careers that deal with people, especially social services, the police, charity work, journalism, the media and the prison service. Several graduates of Sociology also go on to have a career in law. A qualification in sociology will provide you with many key skills, including logical thinking, planning, research and negotiation – all of which can be used in a variety of careers. Business careers (management, marketing and advertising, personnel and human relations); criminal justice careers (law enforcement, courts, corrections; juvenile justice); social service careers (social work; counseling, administration, drug rehabilitation; health administration; family services; disability services); careers in social policy, politics and law (attorney, legal investigator, legal assistant, policy advocate, policy analysis, urban planning, lobbying, philanthropy; public administration, polling, social research); educational careers (college professor; college administrator; university student services; social science teacher; school administrator.)



SPANISH

Why study A-Level Spanish?

Spanish is the third most spoken language in the world, with over 400 million speakers. There are some variations of vocabulary and accent between and within countries, but the Spanish students learn (Castilian, based on the province of Castille) as it is the language common to most Spanish speaking countries and the official language of Spain. Spanish beyond GCSE becomes considerably more challenging. Above all, students stop talking about themselves and develop the skills needed to discuss a wide range of topical issues. We help them to prepare for this in a variety of ways.

How is the course structured?

AS topics include social issues and trends, artistic culture and grammar. Students will also choose one film or book from the recommended list in order to develop their comprehension of Spanish culture for their writing exam. Year 13 develops the content learnt in AS with the addition of political culture and a research project on a historical event in Spanish history or on a famous person.

Taking A-Level Spanish further

Having the A-Level Spanish qualification will be of great benefit for anyone seeking work in Spain or South America, some careers: linguistics, translation, travel and tourism. With international trade getting ever stronger some major international companies require their employees to speak a second language.



QUESTIONS

If you have any questions at any time during the options process or later once the A-Level courses have started, please contact the admissions team (for prospective students) or the main school reception (for existing students) and meetings can be arranged with a member of our Sixth Form Team.

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